



Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

Education Enrichment Committee

December 10, 2010

Attendees: Mark Ezrin, Laurene Thomas, & Mike Bucci
City staff: Tim Smith "Smitty" and Maureen Herndon
Guest: Joshua Shuman (prospective member)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. in the Wells Robertson House conference room.

I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

A. Welcome and Introductions:

Joshua Shuman, new prospective member was introduced. He is a teacher from Quince Orchard High School.

B. Follow Up discussion regarding Mayor and Council Presentation

Mayor and Council recommendations and input from the October committee presentation included: increase outreach to the PTAs; participate in the 2011 Book Festival; and enhance collaboration with other City committees.

Mark provided PTA contacts for all clusters and the PTA representatives were added to contact list and email group via Community Services (CS). Representatives will also be invited to the annual school breakfast in August of 2011 and will be notified throughout the year regarding City events and school grants and programs offered through the City. Further in conjunction with the Book Festival, the committee plans to assist with a book drive and giveaway in partnership with Barnes and Noble. Staff is also discussing the possible involvement of Reading Tree, Inc. who has already donated to the City Census event, 6,000 books to GES and is looking for placement of donation bins through the City to serve City Title I. Schools. Reading Tree is also donating 1,000 books to the Holiday Giving Program. As for overall coordination with other committees, presently, the committee is partnering with MCA on the MLK Jr. Essay Contest and CAC on school and nonprofit funding recommendations.

C. National CHARACTER COUNTS! (CC!) Program: No Update

D. EDUCATION ISSUES:

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Literary Arts Contest entry packets were distributed to Laurene, Mike, and Smitty as volunteer judges from the committee.

City staff to discuss promotion of Reading Tree program within the City and will meet with Book Festival staff representative regarding the role of committee in planning and implementation of the book giveaway during the festival. .

Schedule was set for FY12 Grant review process. Applications are due from the 10% schools by Friday, January 21, 2011 and grant review meeting will be held on Friday, February 11, 2011. City Staff and committee volunteers will conduct pre-screenings prior to committee members getting the grant packets.

GREAT presentations will be prepared for the Tuesday, January 18th Mayor and Council meeting. Ridgeview Middle School and Gaithersburg Elementary Schools submitted GREAT award entries. EEC members will be asked to volunteer to present the award at the meeting. MLK Jr. Essay Contest Winners will also be recognized and present their work at this meeting.

Committee discussed the growing issue of Cyber-Bullying and discussed the possibility of hosting Cluster-wide Cyber-Bullying workshops for parents. Laurene works for the MCPS Office of Community Partnerships and the Parent Academy and is checking their parent outreach calendar to coordinate these efforts. Members suggested possible speakers that they have heard at prior events that were engaging and informative.

School visits were discussed for implementation in January, 2011 and staff is developing a questionnaire to be used at these visits. Members wanted to try and visit the FY11 grant programs prior to making decisions for the FY12 grant applications. Smitty signed up to visit, Brown Station, Fields Road, Gaithersburg, Summit Hall and Washington Grove as part of his weekly afterschool program visits. Laurene will visit Watkins Mill High School, Judith Resnick and Strawberry Knoll Elementary Schools. Mike will visit Gaithersburg High School. Other members and staff will cover the remaining schools on the FY11 grant award list. Members will let the entire committee know when visits are scheduled so others can join the visit if desired.

Additional follow up by January Meeting:

- 1) Contact principals to obtain MCPS discipline chart to learn more about required response to Cyber-Bullying.
- 2) Obtain the new MCPS requirements for graduation which may result in an increase of students repeating 9th grade.
- 3) Obtain 9th grade retention statistics from MCPS regarding Quince Orchard High School, Gaithersburg High School, and Watkins Mill High School.

II. NEXT MEETING: Friday, January 14th, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. in the Wells Robertson Conference Room

Note: Committee voted to have meetings through the rest of the calendar year, on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

II. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Maureen Herndon
Program Manager
Community Services